What is claimed is:

1   1.   A device capable of communicating over a link to a system containing a

2   routine under test, the routine under test generating an output upon execution, the device

3   comprising:

4   a display to display the output as a bitmap;

5   a test routine; and

6   a capture routine invocable by the test routine to extract data from a

7   predefined region of the bitmap,

8   the test routine adapted to receive the extracted data to perform a test

9   procedure.

1   2.   The device of claim 1, wherein the test procedure comprises matching the

2   extracted data with a predetermined string.

1   3.   The device of claim 1, further comprising a communications client

2   adapted to communicate with the system.

1   4.   The device of claim 3, wherein the communications client comprises a

2   Telnet client.

1   5.   The device of claim 1, wherein the bitmap comprises an array of pixels,

2   and wherein the predefined region comprises a rectangular region.

1   6.   The device of claim 1, wherein the test routine is adapted to provide

2   parameters defining the predefined region when invoking the capture routine.

1   7.   The device of claim 1, wherein the output comprises a table having a first

2   column of fields and a second column of fields.

1   8.   The device of claim 7, wherein the predefined region is different
2   depending on whether a field from the first column or the second column is to be
3   extracted.

1   9.   The device of claim 7, wherein the test routine specifies a first predefined
2   region to extract a field from the first column and a second, different predefined region to
3   extract a field from the second column.

1   10.   The device of claim 1, wherein the test routine is adapted to refresh the
2   bitmap to obtain an updated output of the software application.

1   11.   The device of claim 10, wherein the test routine is adapted to invoke the
2   capture routine to extract the data and to perform the test procedure after each refresh.

1   12.   The device of claim 11, wherein the test routine is adapted to repeat
2   invoking the capture routine and performing the test procedure until a time-out occurs.

1   13.   An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions
2   that when executed cause a device to:
3   receive a bitmap representing an output of a software application under
4   test;
5   capture a value from a predefined region of the bitmap; and
6   perform a test procedure using the captured value.

1   14.   The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2   device to perform the test procedure by matching the captured value to a predetermined
3   string.

1   15.   The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2   device to receive the bitmap in a Telnet session.

1   16.   The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   device to receive the bitmap over a communications link from a system in which the

3   software application under test is running.

1   17.   The article of claim 13, wherein the bitmap represents a table generated by

2   the software application under test.

1   18.   The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   device to further define the predefined region by defining a rectangular region in the

3   bitmap.

1   19.   The article of claim 18, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   device to define a first region if a first output of the software application is to be extracted

3   and to define a second region if a second output of the software application is to be

4   extracted.

1   20.   A method of performing a test, comprising:

2   receiving a bitmap representing an output of a software application under

3   test;

4   extracting a value from a region of the bitmap; and

5   performing a test procedure using the extracted value.

1   21.   The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the bitmap.

1   22.   The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the bitmap comprises a

2   terminal receiving the bitmap over a communications link from a system in which the

3   software application under test is executing.

1   23.   The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the bitmap comprises

2   receiving the bitmap in a Telnet session between the terminal and the system.